

CONSTITUTION OF THE CHINESE NEW DEMOCRATIC YOUTH CORPS

Unanimously approved by the Second National Representatives Congress  
of the Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps

General Principles

The Chinese New Democratic Youth Corps is an organization of progressive youth led by the Chinese Communist Party. It is the Party's auxiliary and reserve corps.

The Youth Corps assists the Party in educating youth in the Communist spirit so that they will become fervently patriotic, loyal to the people, well versed, disciplined, courageous, diligent, lively, and unafraid of difficulty. They will also follow the path of our great leader Mao Tse-tung and will concern themselves with the struggle for the gradual realization of national industrialization and the gradual transition to a socialist society.

The Youth Corps requires all of its members to loyally enforce the resolutions of the Party and Government, observe the national laws with exemplary behaviour and strengthen the friendship and unity between the various minority nationalities of China. It further requires the consolidation of the people's democratic dictatorship, the learning of all kinds of knowledge and techniques, actual participation in the program of national reconstruction and preparation to protect the great fatherland. The Youth Corps loyally supports the principle of internationalism, unity for the world's democratic youth, consolidation of the Peace Front, Democracy and Socialism led by Soviet Russia and the preservation of world peace.

The Youth Corps is organized in accordance with the principle of democratic centralism. The Corps is replete with democratic life and the Corps members will conscientiously observe discipline and consistently maintain unanimity with respect to ideology, organization and activity. The Youth Corps will use the powerful instrument of criticism and self-criticism in order to improve its work. The Youth Corps will be constantly concerned with the livelihood of the masses, listen attentively to their opinions, and learn from them in the spirit of humility. It will use the method of education by persuasion, and exemplary action by the Corps members to attract youth towards closer unity within the Party orbit.

The Youth Corps will carry out its work under the direct leadership of the Chinese Communist Party. The local Corps organization is subject to the guidance and supervision of the Party organization of the same level.

Chapter 1. Corps Members

Article 1. All youth of either sex, who are over 14 and under 25 years of age, who acknowledge the Corps constitution, who participate in one of the Corps' organizations, who carry out the resolutions of the Corps, and pay dues to the Corps may become members of the Corps.

Article 2. Corps members have the following duties:

- (1) To study the Marxist-Leninist doctrine and Party policy, and propagate these among the masses of youth.
- (2) To fulfill the tasks assigned them by the Party and the Corps organization.
- (3) To participate energetically in national reconstruction and in the spirit of patriotic labor.
- (4) To study culture, science and technical knowledge in order to continuously raise their own level of competence.
- (5) To study military affairs and train their bodies in preparation for protecting our great fatherland.
- (6) To observe the national laws, preserve public property, and struggle against actions harmful to the people's welfare.
- (7) To constantly show concern for the masses, consult them when problems arise, and be a friend and example to youth.

Article 3. Corps members have the following rights:

- (1) To freely and frankly discuss any problem concerning the work of the Corps at the Corps meetings and Corps publications.
- (2) To elect and be elected within the Corps.
- (3) To criticize at the Corps meetings any of the Corps' working personnel and its organs of leadership.
- (4) To submit petitions, suggestions, and declarations to the various levels of the Corps organizations and the Central Committee.

Article 4. Candidates for Corps membership who have been accepted must individually undergo procedures for admission into the Corps in accordance with the following provisions:

All young workers, peasants, soldiers, intellectuals, and other laboring youth who voluntarily apply for admission to the Corps, may, upon the sponsorship of two Corps members or one official Party member of the Chinese Communist Party, become Corps members. They must also file an application for admission into the Corps which upon investigation by the Corps branch committee and the ruling of the branch assembly, must be approved by the Corps local committee or its equivalent. When a member of the Pioneers applies for admission into the Corps a member of the committee representing a Pioneer company may be considered as the equivalent of one Corps member acting as sponsor.

The sponsor should make a truthful and responsible recommendation to the Corps organization with respect to ideology, character and experience of the person sponsored. Before making the recommendation he should explain the Corps constitution to the person sponsored.

The Corps member's term of membership commences as soon as the membership has been approved by the branch assembly.

Article 5. When a Corps member transfers from one organization to another he should fulfill the procedures for transfers to other organizations.

Article 6. Corps members who are over 25 years of age and who wish to withdraw from membership should submit a declaration of withdrawal to the branch committee. Those who wish to remain in the Corps shall have the right of expression and the right to be elected. If and when they are elected or appointed to the Corps staff then they shall have the right to elect and the right to vote.

Article 7. Corps members who have not had more than six months of organized activity under the Corps, who have not carried out the work assigned them by the Corps organization, and who have not paid their dues are considered to have voluntarily withdrawn from the Corps. If the branch committee of the Corps finds there is no legitimate reason for their negligence their names should be reported to the higher Corps committees for approval and for removal from the roster.

Corps members are free to withdraw from the Corps organization at any time.

#### Chapter 2. Structure of the Corps: Democracy Within the Corps

Article 8. The Corps organization is based on the principle of democratic centralism:

(1) The various levels of the leadership organs are created by election.

(2) The various levels of leadership organs should make periodical activity reports to the organs which elected them.

(3) The individual should obey the organization, the minority should obey the majority, and the lower echelon should obey the higher echelon.

(4) Corps discipline should be observed and Corps resolutions carried out.

Article 9. The Corps organization is established according to area or productive department. The organization system is as follows:

(1) On the national level is the National Representatives' Congress or Central Committee, and the regional committees of its representative organs.

(2) On the provincial level (or the equivalent administrative unit) is the provincial assembly. This assembly has a provincial committee and a local committee.

(3) On the municipal level is the municipal representatives' assembly with its municipal committee and local committee. In the large cities, subject to the approval of the Central Committee, the district representatives' assemblies may be convened in the districts under municipal jurisdiction. The district committees may then be set up subject to the leadership of the municipal committee.

(4) On the hsien level (or equivalent administrative unit) is the hsien representatives' assembly with its hsien (or equivalent administrative unit) committee and local committees.

(5) On the level of the basic organizations is the plenary Corps members assembly, or the Corps members representatives' assembly which is the basic organization committee.

The corps organizations of the minority nationality areas directly under the Central Government carry out their work under the leadership of the Corps Central Committee or its representative organs. They set up their own internal program in accordance with the regulations of their local organizations.

The Youth Corps in the transportation field should carry out its work in accordance with the special stipulations of the Central Committee of the Youth Corp. The stipulations of the political affairs division of the Ministries of Railroads and Communications of the Central People's Government must also be followed.

Article 10. The highest organs of the various levels of corps organization are the representatives' assemblies or the Corps members assemblies of the various levels. When the representatives' assemblies or the Corps members assemblies are adjourned the committees of the various levels become the highest organs.

The Corps committees of the various levels should set up appropriate departments in accordance with the stipulations of the Central Committee in order to carry out the work.

When the representatives' assemblies of the various levels are adjourned the committees of the various levels may hold a conference of representatives when deemed necessary. The number of representatives of this conference should be determined by the committee. The decisions of the representatives' conference require the approval of the committee to become effective.

Article 11. In the election of the leadership organs of the Corps each voter has the right to nominate, to request the change of, or to criticize a candidate.

Article 12. The various levels of Corps organs should welcome with enthusiasm, criticism and suggestions by the masses. The representatives' assemblies and the Corps members assemblies of the various levels should invite the participation of the masses of youth.

### Chapter 3. The Central Organs of the Corps

Article 13. The national representatives congress should meet once every three years. Under special circumstances, upon the decision of the Central Committee, the date of the meeting may be advanced or postponed. The Central Committee should set up regulations regarding the name-list and the election procedure of the representatives to the National Representatives Congress.

Article 14. The duties of the National Representatives Congress are:

- (1) To inspect and approve the reports of the Central Committee.
- (2) To inspect and revise the Corps constitution.
- (3) To discuss and determine the working policies and the immediate tasks of the Corps.
- (4) To elect the Central Committee.

Article 15. When the National Representatives Congress is adjourned the Central Committee shall assume leadership for all Corps work. The plenary sessions of the Central Committee shall be held every half year. The alternate members of the Central Committee may attend the plenary sessions of the Central Committee and shall have the right of expression.

Article 16. The Standing Committee and the Secretariat shall be elected out of the plenary session of the Central Committee.

When the plenary session of the Central Committee has adjourned the Standing Committee shall assume leadership for the entire work of the Central Committee. The Secretariat shall, under the instructions of the Standing Committee, handle all routine matters of the Central Committee.

Article 17. In order to guide the work of the various local Corps the Central Committee shall set up in the various administrative region working committees of its representative organs. The administrative region working committees shall be appointed by the Central Committee and shall be responsible to the Central Committee.

Chapter 4. The Local Organs of the Corps

Article 18. The provincial representatives assemblies of the Corps shall be convened once every two years. The hsien representatives assemblies shall be convened once a year. The committees of the various levels may hold the meetings earlier or postpone them. The committees shall also formulate regulations concerning the problems relating to the number of representatives attending the assembly and their election. The duties of the representatives assemblies are:

- (1) To inspect and approve the reports of the committees of the various levels.
- (2) To discuss the work of the administrative region.
- (3) To elect the committees of the various levels.
- (4) To elect the representatives who are to attend the Corps representatives assembly of the next higher level.

Article 19. The provincial, municipal and hsien committees shall elect a standing committee, a secretary, and one assistant secretary. When these committees have adjourned the standing committee shall assume leadership for the entire work. The members of the provincial, municipal and hsien committees must be approved by the committee of the next higher level or its representative organ.

Article 20. The provincial, municipal and hsien committees must, (in accordance with the instructions of the Corps committee of the higher levels, the Party committees of the same level, and the decisions of the representatives' assemblies) assume leadership for the entire work of the administrative regional Corps.

Article 21. The provincial, municipal and hsien committees may, within the special commissioner district and their own district, set up local working committees and district working committees of their representative organs. These working committees shall be appointed by, and responsible to, the provincial, municipal and hsien committees.

Article 22. All secretaries of the Corps committees above the rural level must be official members of the Chinese Communist Party. All committeemen and secretaries of the provincial Corps committees and their equivalent must have more than three years of membership in the Party. All committeemen and secretaries of the special commissioner district Corps committees, must have more than two years, and those of the hsien Corps committees, or their equivalent, more than one year of membership. The committeemen and secretaries of the district working committees or their equivalent must be either official or alternate members of the Chinese Communist Party.

Chapter 5. Basic Organizations of the Corps

Article 23. The basic organizations of the Corps is the Corps' foundation. Any three or more Corps members may form a basic organization of the Corps, whether in a plant, mine, farm, village, company, office, school, street, etc.

(1) Any group of more than three Corps members and less than 100 may form a Corps branch, and when necessary, divide into Corps sub-committees.

(2) Any group of more than 100 Corps members and less than 300 may form a general branch. When it is necessary any group of more than 50 Corps members may also form a general branch, and under the general branch form sub-committees.

(3) Any large enterprise, government organ or school, etc with more than 300 members may form a Corps committee. When the work necessitates it a group of less than 300 but more than 100 may also form a Corps committee. Under the Corps committee there should be formed a Corps branch, and when necessary a general branch of the Corps may be formed.

The formation of a branch or general branch must have the approval of the hsien or municipal Corps committees or their equivalent. The formation of Corps committees must have the approval of the provincial or municipal committees or their equivalent.

The Corps assemblies of the Corps branches shall be convened once a month. The Corps assemblies of the general branches and of the Corps committees, or the representatives assemblies of the Corps members shall be convened once every three months to six months.

Article 24. The basic organization of the Corps is the fundamental unit of the work and the activities of the Corps. It makes the masses of youth unite closely with the Corps organization. The duties of the basic organizations are as follows:

(1) To educate the youth in the Communist spirit, to strive to fulfill the regulations of the Party and the higher level Corps committees, and to energetically participate in national reconstruction.

(2) To mobilize the Corps members and youth, to energetically study politics, culture, science and technical knowledge.

(3) To organize the Corps members and youth to constantly participate in sports, cultural entertainment and other activities.

(4) To show concern for the improvement of the laboring conditions and living conditions of youths and to elevate their material living and cultural level.

(5) To educate and supervise the Corps members in carrying out their duties and to guarantee the rights of Corps members.

(6) To accept new Corps members and educate them in the Corps constitution.

The basic organizations of the Corps should, with a positive and responsible attitude, make suggestions relating to the improvement of the work of their own units.

The organs of the Youth Corps should, in all units participating in national reconstruction and especially in localities where there are no basic organs of the Party, become energetic propagators and implementors of the Party's resolutions.

Article 25. The basic organizations of the Corps should elect their own committees to handle matters of daily routine. In branches with less than 7 members no branch committees need be set up, but one secretary, or one secretary and one assistant secretary, should be elected.

The tenure of office of the branch committees, general branch committees, and Corps committees shall be from six to twelve months.

#### Chapter 6. Rewards and Punishments

Article 26. Whenever a Corps member or Corps organization, in the protection or reconstruction of the fatherland, shows a high degree of loyalty or creativity, or makes some spectacular achievement or some special contribution, he should be given a reward. This will encourage the spirit of youthful patriotism and revolutionary heroism among Corps members.

Article 27. For all who do not carry out the resolutions of the Party or the Corps and for all who violate the Corps constitution the Corps organs of the various levels shall, in accordance with the specific circumstances, mete out for each case the following punishments:

(1) The punishment for an entire organization may be: reprimand, the abolition of its leadership organs, the disbandment of the entire organization, and the re-registering of its Corps members.

(2) The punishment for an individual Corps member may be: admonition, warning, severe warning, withdrawal from activities, detention for investigation, or ejection from the Corps roster.

Article 28. The aim of the Corps organs in punishing Corps members is to tighten discipline and to educate the Corps members and youth. The Corps organs of the various levels (when determining and approving punishment of Corps members, especially when the punishment is ejection from the Corps roster) should maintain dignity and sincerity. They should, further, allow the accused to participate in the meeting and should listen carefully to his opinions. If the accused has objections to the punishment decided upon he may offer argument and make an appeal. The Corps organ should carefully deliberate on and give consideration to the arguments of the accused, and should speedily transmit the appeal of the accused without detaining or suppressing it.

#### Chapter 7. Organization of the Chinese Pioneers

Article 29. The Youth Corps, at the request of the Party, shall set up an organization of the Pioneers in the junior middle and elementary schools and other places where children and young people are congregated.

Article 30. The Pioneers shall educate the children and young people in their studies and in various kinds of collective activity. It shall raise them to become a new generation of people who will love their fatherland, love the people, love labor, love science, and preserve public property, and who will be strong, lively, courageous, and sincere.

The Pioneers shall teach their members to study, observe discipline, make friends, prepare to take part in the reconstruction of the fatherland, and to struggle for the fulfilment of the great ideals of Chairman Mao Tse-tung.

Article 31. The Pioneers shall carry out their work under the leadership of the Youth Corps. When organizations are being set up in the schools and other units approval must be obtained from the district working committees or the Corps committees equivalent to the district working committees. No

Pioneers are established for levels above the district.

Article 32. The adjutants are leaders and friends of the Pioneers. The basic organizations of the Corps should choose worthy Corps members or teachers to become adjutants. The leader of a company should be invited by the district working committee or by a Corps committee equivalent to the district working committee. The chief adjutants should be invited by the hsien committee, or by a Corps committee equivalent to the hsien committee.

The Corps organs should offer constant concern and assistance to the adjutants in order to raise their political and functional abilities.

Article 33. The Corps organs should place much emphasis on the publication of reading matter for young people and children, and on children's organizations outside the school (young peoples' homes, summer camps, and children's playgrounds, etc.) They should also give constant attention to the protection of young people and children, and combat all things harmful to the physical and mental health of young people and children.

Chapter 8. The Organization of the Youth Corps within the Chinese People's Liberation Army

Article 34. The Youth Corps work within the Chinese People's Liberation Army is an important constituent part of the political work of the Party. It should be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the Party committees and with the will and purposes of the army chiefs, under the leadership of the political organs and basic organs of the Party.

Article 35. The Youth Corps within the Chinese People's Liberation Army should carry on its work in accordance with the special regulations of the Central Committee of the Youth Corps and the Political Department of the People's Revolutionary Military Committee of the Central People's Government.

Article 36. The Youth Corps organs within the Chinese People's Liberation Army should maintain close liaison with the regional Youth Corps organs. It should also constantly participate in the work of the regional Youth Corps organs, and in the election of the Corps leadership organs.

Chapter 9. Fees

Article 37. The Corps fees include the dues paid by Corps members and other income.

Article 38. The Corps members should pay Corps dues the amount of which shall be fixed by the Central Committee. Corps members who are at the same time Communist Party members are exempt from paying dues.